

CHAPTER 20 TRAFFIC REGULATIONS: APPLICABILITY AND ENFORCEMENT

Secs

- 2000 Obedience to Traffic Regulations
- 2001 Applicability of Regulations to Public Officer and Employees
- 2002 Exemptions for Authorized Emergency Vehicles

2000 OBEDIENCE TO TRAFFIC REGULATIONS

- 2000.1 It is unlawful for any person to do any act forbidden or fail to perform any act required in this subtitle.
- 2000.2 No person shall fail or refuse to comply with any lawful order or direction of any police officer, police cadet, or civilian crossing guard invested by law with authority to direct, control, or regulate traffic. This section shall apply to pedestrians and to the operators of vehicles.
- 2000.3 The owner of a vehicle shall be presumed to be the operator when any violations of these regulations may occur, unless he or she proves to the contrary.
- 2000.4 The driver of any vehicle shall obey the instructions of any official traffic control device applicable to the vehicle which has been placed in accordance with the provisions of this subtitle, unless otherwise directed by a police officer, subject to the exceptions granted the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle in this chapter.
- 2000.5 No provision of this subtitle for which signs are required shall be enforced against an alleged violator if, at the time and place of the alleged violation, an official sign is not in proper position and sufficiently legible to be seen by an ordinarily observant person.
- 2000.6 Whenever a particular section does not state that signs are required, that section shall be effective even though no signs are erected or in place.
- 2000.7 Each person riding an animal or driving any animal-drawn vehicle upon a roadway shall be granted all of the rights and shall be subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle by this subtitle, except those provisions of this subtitle which by their very nature can have no application.
- 2000.8 Nothing in this subtitle shall be construed as repealing, annulling, or in any way superseding outstanding regulations or orders of the Public Service Commission or the Joint Board relating to common carriers.

- 2000.9 Any person violating any of the provisions of this subtitle for which a penalty is not specifically provided shall, upon determination of liability thereof, be subject to a civil fine or other sanction(s) pursuant to the District of Columbia Traffic Adjudication Act.
- 2000.10 Any person who fails to comply with the requirements of this section shall, upon conviction, be fined not less than one hundred dollars (\$ 100) nor more than one thousand dollars (\$ 1,000).
- 2000.11 The collateral to be paid for release prior to a hearing for a charge based upon a violation of § 2000.2 shall be as follows:
- (a) One hundred dollars (\$ 100) for a first offense;
 - (b) Five-hundred dollars (\$ 500) for a second offense committed within the past twelve (12) months; and
 - (c) One thousand dollars (\$ 1,000) for the third offense and each subsequent offense committed within the past twelve (12) months.
- 2000.12 For purposes of calculating multiple offenses under § 2000.11, violations shall be counted that occurred before the effective date (November 25, 1996) of the Collateral Reform Emergency Amendment Act of 1996.
- 2000.13 Collateral may be posted and forfeited for a violation of § 2000.2, but the Corporation Counsel may, at the time of application for a warrant, petition a judge presiding in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia ex parte, to set bond and abrogate the privileges of the violator to forfeit collateral.

2001 APPLICABILITY OF REGULATIONS TO PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

- 2001.1 The provisions of this subtitle which are applicable to the drivers of vehicles upon the highways shall apply to the drivers of all vehicles owned or operated by the United States, the District of Columbia or any state, county, city, town, district, or any other political subdivision of any state, except as provided in this section, and subject to the specific exceptions as are set forth in this subtitle reference to authorized emergency vehicles.
- 2001.2 The provisions of this subtitle shall not apply to persons, teams, motor vehicles, and other equipment while actually engaged in work upon the surface of a highway, but shall apply to these persons and vehicles when traveling to or from such work.

2002 EXEMPTIONS FOR AUTHORIZED EMERGENCY VEHICLES

- 2002.1 The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle may exercise the privileges set forth in this section, subject to the conditions contained in this section, in the following circumstances:
- (a) When responding to an emergency call;
 - (b) When in pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law; and
 - (c) When responding to, but not upon returning from, a fire alarm.
- 2002.2 In those circumstances authorized in § 2002.1, the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle may do any of the following:
- (a) Park or stand, irrespective of the provisions of this subtitle;
 - (b) Proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign, but only after slowing down as may be necessary for safe operation;
 - (c) Exceed the prima facie speed limit so long as it does not endanger life or property; except that this provision does not apply to ambulances; and
 - (d) Disregard regulations governing direction of movement or turning in specified directions.
- 2002.3 The exemptions granted in this section to an authorized emergency vehicle shall apply only when the driver of the vehicle while in motion sounds an audible signal by bell, siren, or exhaust whistle as may be reasonably necessary, and when the vehicle is equipped as specified in § 712 of this title.
- 2002.4 The provisions of this section shall not relieve the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons, nor shall these provisions protect the driver from the consequences of his reckless disregard for the safety of others.